

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE WARNER MOUNTAIN CONY.

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[A contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California.]

Ochotona schisticeps was the first cony described from California (see Merriam, N. Amer. Fauna, No. 2, 1889, p. 11). The type locality is Donner, Placer County, and the form represented there doubtless occurs on most suitable parts of the high central Sierra Nevada. Quite recently (Grinnell, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 10, 1912, p. 125) the cony of the Mount Whitney region was distinguished by the name *Ochotona albatrus*. Further examination of available material shows that the cony of the Warner Mountains of extreme northeastern California, and hence of detached habitat from the main Sierran fauna, merits recognition by name. This is here done, as follows:

***Ochotona taylori* sp. nov.**

Type.—♂ ad., No. 11,292, Univ. Calif. Mus. Vert. Zool.; Warren Peak, 9000 ft. alt., Warner Mts., Modoc Co., Calif.; July 18, 1910; collected by W. P. Taylor and H. C. Bryant; original No. 3885.

General characters.—Closely similar to *Ochotona schisticeps* in size and form, but differs from this species in tone of coloration, being distinctly darker and browner both above and below.

Coloration.—Like *O. schisticeps*; black tipplings to hairs all over dorsal surface greater in extent; brown tones deeper, approximating vandyke brown, this, mixed with black, pervading the head so that the latter region is but very faintly paler or grayer than the rest of the body; sides warmer brown, nearer mars brown, this deepening over shoulders and thence around to the under surface, so that there is a conspicuous deep russet gular area; chin grayish, but rest of ventral surface pervaded with deep clay color, blending with the brown of throat and sides; tops of both front and hind feet slightly more dusky and brown-washed than in *schisticeps*.

Occurrence.—The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology contains nine skins of this new form (Nos. 11,290–11,298) all from Modoc County, California. These are as follows: Warren Peak, 9000 feet, 4; east face Warren Peak, 8700 feet, 3; Sugar Hill, 6000 feet, 2.

Remarks.—As is usually the case, our specimens were shot with fine shot, some of them at very close range, and the skulls were all more or less broken. It is thus impossible with the present material to ascertain whether or not there are any cranial characters. The young possess the relatively dark coloration of the adults and in just as great degree, this being a good test of the phylogenetic value of such a character.

The name adopted for this new cony is selected as an appropriate recognition of the efficient services of Mr. Walter P. Taylor, Curator of Mammals in the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Furthermore, Mr. Taylor collected the series upon which the new name is based.